

**REMARKS**

The present Amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action of August 11, 2005, which set a two month initial period for response. Submitted herewith is a Petition for a one month extension of time.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has required election as between the groups of claims respectively drawn to an optical amplifier, on the one hand, and to a polarization maintaining fiber on the other hand. Applicants wish to elect Group II, i.e., the claims directed to polarization maintaining fiber.

As noted by the Examiner, claims 18 and 19 are currently directed to polarization maintaining fiber. Applicants herewith add new claim 56 which is similarly directed, although of different scope.

Applicants kindly request further examination of the elected group, claims 18, 19 and 56, inclusive.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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**23373**

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